
Communicable Diseases and Infection Control Updates

What's New

[Visit Canada.ca for up to date information on the current situation of Mpox in Canada](#)

On August 14, the World Health Organization (WHO) communicated that the increase in mpox cases in Africa, as well as the emergence of a new strain of clade I, clade Ib, monkeypox virus (MPXV), constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

As of October 1, there have been no identified cases of mpox caused by MPXV clade Ia or Ib in Canada. Although the risk to people in Canada from clade I MPXV remains low at this time, the Government of Canada is closely monitoring the mpox situation for possible impacts on those living in Canada.

For updated information on the current situation, as well as guidance on the prevention, diagnosis, and management of mpox, please visit Canada.ca/mpox

[NEW! Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections dashboard](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released a new interactive dashboard on Health Infobase on sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) using pre-published data.

This interactive dashboard presents statistics on STBBI on a national level. This dashboard centralizes national STBBI data into a user-friendly dashboard that allows exploration of the current status of STBBI in Canada via various indicators, as well as allowing users to explore disaggregated data for said indicators through categories such as age group, sex and key population when applicable.

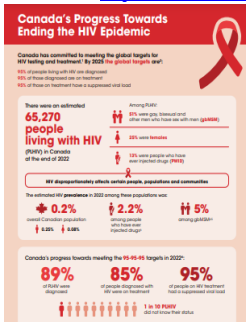
For questions and comments. Please reach out to us ppd.ar.single.window-guichet.unique.ra.dpp@phac-aspc.gc.ca

[2022-2023 Progress Report on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections](#)



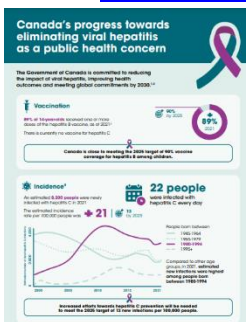
In August 2024, the Government of Canada released its 2022-2023 Progress Report on the Five-Year STBBI Action Plan (2019-2024). This 3rd Progress report details activities undertaken from nine federal governmental departments from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, to reduce the impact of sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI), and demonstrate the level of commitment and leadership Canada is taking to achieve its global targets on STBBI. Throughout the Progress Report, key activities such as – but are not limited to, the AIDS 2022 Conference, HIVST Initiative, the Northern, Remote and Isolated Initiative and more have been ‘spotlighted’ to highlight federal successes. Read the 2022-2023 Progress Report, now available on Canada.ca.

[Update on Canada’s progress towards ending the HIV epidemic](#)



Canada has committed to meeting the global targets for HIV testing and treatment by 2025. Those targets aim for 95% of people living with HIV to be diagnosed, 95% of those diagnosed are on treatment and 95% of those on treatment to have a suppressed viral load. Take a look at the newly published infographic that showcases Canada's progress toward these goals.

[Update on Canada's progress towards eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health concern](#)



Canada has committed to reducing the impact of viral hepatitis, improving health outcomes and meeting global commitments by 2030. Check out Canada’s progress towards the global 2025 targets in the newly published infographic.

[Report on the Enhanced Surveillance of Antimicrobial resistant Gonorrhoea \(ESAG\): 2018 to 2021](#)

We are pleased to announce the release of the following report, available on Canada.ca: [Report on the Enhanced Surveillance of Antimicrobial resistant Gonorrhoea \(ESAG\): 2018 to 2021](#)

[Register now: STBBI Barriers to Screening course](#)

Check out this free and accredited online course, developed through a collaboration between the Public Health Agency of Canada and the University of British Columbia Continuing Professional Development unit. This self-paced course provides an overview of current STBBI trends in Canada and PHAC's guidance on STBBI screening. It also aims to enhance the comfort level and competency of health professionals to discuss sexual health and offer screening for STBBI as part of routine care. Register now and complete the course before February 2025!

[Recording available: Let's talk about syphilis: A case-based clinical overview](#)

View the recording of a case-based webinar, led by Dr. Andrea Chittle in partnership with Public Health Ontario, that examines the national guidelines for syphilis screening and treatment, emphasizing the importance of epidemiologic data, clinical exam findings, and how to interpret test results to diagnose syphilis.

[Risk of transmission of HIV to infants during breast/chest feeding in the context of antiretroviral therapy](#)

Check out PHAC's latest research project on the risk of transmission of HIV during breast/chest feeding to infants. PHAC is conducting a rapid review to explore the effect of varying viral load levels on the risk of HIV transmission to infants during breast/chest feeding when the birthing or gestational parent living with HIV is on antiretroviral therapy (ART). Findings from this review aim to inform policy and health decision-making and strengthen the U=U prevention campaigns around HIV stigma. Keep an eye out for the results of this rapid review within future CCDIC Newsletter issues!

[Risk of sexual transmission of HIV in serodiscordant couples in the context of viral load suppression and antiretroviral therapy](#)

PHAC is conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis to identify precise estimates of the risk of sexual HIV transmission in serodiscordant couples where the partner living with HIV is on antiretroviral therapy (ART). In addition, this research aims to determine the dose-response relationship between different levels of viral load and the risk of sexual HIV transmission.

[National screening recommendations for syphilis in non-pregnant adults and adolescents](#)

Over the past decade (2013–2022), rates of infectious syphilis have increased by over 390% in Canada. Screening for syphilis and timely treatment are essential to

prevent further transmission and health complications. As a result, the National Advisory Committee on Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (NAC-STBBI) has updated syphilis screening recommendations for non-pregnant adults and adolescents. Check out a [summary of the recommendations and the evidence that informed them](#) to learn more!

[Evaluation of the Public Health Agency of Canada's Sexually Transmitted Blood-borne Infections Activities 2018-19 to 2022-23](#)

Take a look at the recently released report by the Office of Audit and Evaluation, which outlines the evaluation results of the Public Health Agency of Canada's activities related to sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections from 2018-19 to 2022-23.

What's Coming

[Join the Communicable Disease and Infection Control Webinar mailing list](#)

PHAC leads the Communicable Disease and Infection Control (CDIC) Webinar Series, which showcases projects, publications, epidemiological data, community organizations and more. It's attended by government representatives, public health professionals, community-based organizations, community members, health care professionals, academics and researchers. There are exciting webinars scheduled throughout the rest of 2024. If you are interested in registering for these webinars, please contact CDIC Webinars / Webinaires LMTI (PHAC/ASPC) cdic.webinars-webinaires.lmti@phac-aspc.gc.ca

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